REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 9-11, 19, and 20 currently stand rejected. Claims 2-8 and 12-18 have been objected to. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, and 14 have been amended herein. Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests allowance of claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20.

Objections

Claims 2-8 have been objected to for depending upon rejected claim 1. Claims 12-18 have been objected to for depending upon rejected claim 11. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations of dependent claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Independent claim 11 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations of dependent claim 12, and claim 12 has been canceled. The remaining dependent claims 3-8 and 13-18 depend from allowable independent claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 9-11, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0212069 A1 (Heinz). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations found in dependent claim 2. Independent claim 11 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations found in dependent claim 12.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 19 and 20 depend from independent claim 11, thus incorporating the limitations of the associated independent claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 9, 10, 19, and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons indicated above in support of claims 1 and 11, and such indication by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Thus, in light of the discussion above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 9-11, 19, and 20.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, the Applicant submits that the claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Additional reasons in support of patentability exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The Applicant believes no fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine that fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 210765, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

/Eric M. Collins/

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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